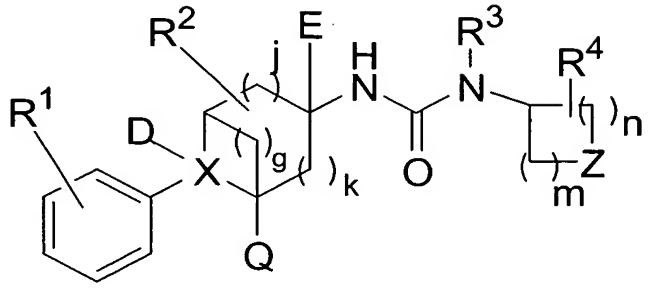
What is claimed is:

1. A compound represented by the structural formula



I

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein:

X is independently N or C;

Z is independently NR^8 or CR^3R^9;

D is independently H, -OH, -alkyl or substituted -alkyl with the proviso that when X is N, D and the X-D bond are absent;

E is independently H, -alkyl or substituted –alkyl, or D and E can independently be joined together via a $-(CH_2)_p-$ bridge;

Q is independently H, -alkyl or substituted –alkyl, or D, X, Q and the carbon to which Q is attached can jointly form a 3 to 7-membered ring;

g, j, k, m and n can be the same or different and are independently selected;

g is 0 to 3 and when g is 0, the carbons to which $(CH_2)_g$ is shown connected are no more linked;

j and k are independently 0 to 3 such that the sum of j and k is 0, 1, 2 or 3;

m and n are independently 0 to 3 such that the sum of m and n is 1, 2,3, 4 or 5;

p is 1 to 3;

R^1 is 1 to 5 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^1 being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, haloalkyl, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, CN, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, alkylthio, cycloalkylthio, $-NR^5R^6$, $-NO_2$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NR^5COR^6$, $-NR^5CONR^5R^6$ where the two R^5 moieties can be the same or different, $-NR^6C(O)OR^7$, $-C(O)OR^6$, $-SOR^7$, $-SO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, aryl and heteroaryl;

R^2 is 1 to 6 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^2 being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, alkoxy, and hydroxy, with the proviso that when X is N and R^2 is hydroxy or alkoxy, R^2 is not directly attached to a carbon adjacent to X;

R^3 is independently hydrogen, -alkyl or substituted -alkyl;

R^4 is 1 to 6 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^4 being independently selected from hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, alkoxy, and hydroxy, with the proviso that when Z is NR^8 and R^4 is hydroxy or alkoxy, R^4 is not directly attached to a carbon adjacent to the NR^8;

R^5 and R^6 are independently hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted -alkyl or -cycloalkyl;

R^7 is independently –alkyl, substituted -alkyl or -cycloalkyl;

R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^{11}$, $-C(O)R^{11}$, $-C(O)NR^5R^{11}$ and $-C(O)OR^{10}$;

R^9 is independently hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxy, $-NR^5R^{11}$, aryl, or heteroaryl; or R^3 and R^9 can be joined together and with the carbon to which they are attached form a carbocyclic or heterocyclic ring having 3 to 7 ring atoms;

R^{10} is -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl; and

R^{11} is independently hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, aryl or heteroaryl.

2. The compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein

R^1 is 1 to 5 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^1 being independently selected from the group consisting of Cl, Br, I or F;

X is N;

D is absent and the X-D bond is absent;

E is H;

g is 0;

j is 1;

k is 1;

m is 2;

n is 2;

R^2 is H;

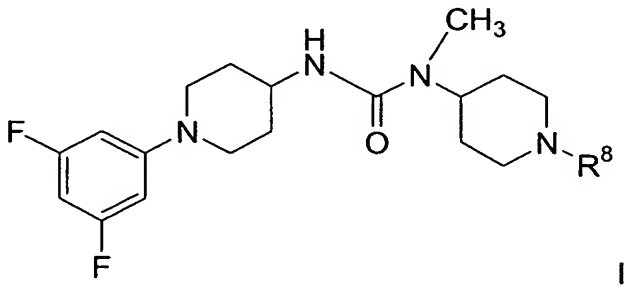
R^3 is methyl;

R^4 is H;

and

Z is NR^8, where R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^{11}$, $-C(O)R^{11}$, $-C(O)NR^5R^{11}$ and $-C(O)OR^{10}$.

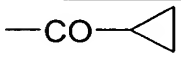
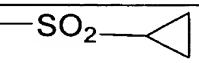
3. A compound represented by the structural formula



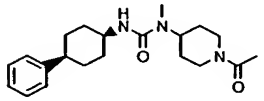
II

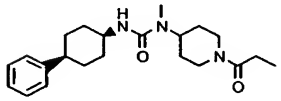
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein R^8 is defined in the following table:

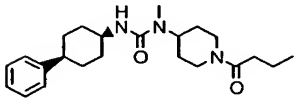
R^8
$-COCH_3$

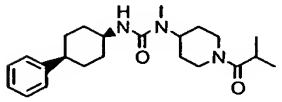
$-COCH_2CH_3$

$-COCH(CH_3)_2$
$-CO(CH_2)_2CH_3$
$-COOC(CH_3)_3$
$-SO_2CH_3$
$SO_2CH_2CH_3$

$-SO_2CH(CH_3)_2$
$-SO_2(CH_2)_2CH_3$
$-SO_2Ph$

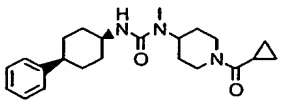
4. A compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

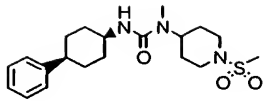


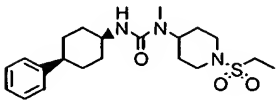


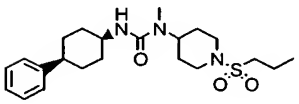


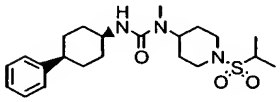




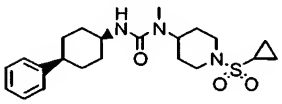






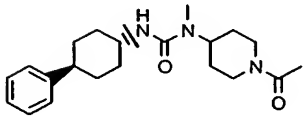


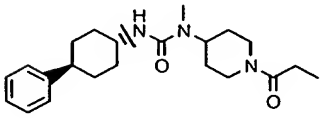
and

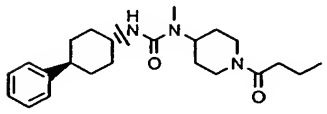


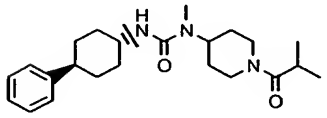
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of said compound.

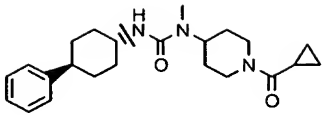
5. A compound of claim 1 selected from the group consisting of

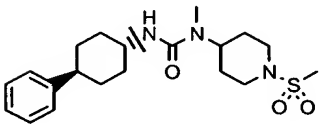


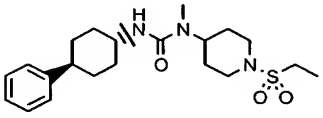


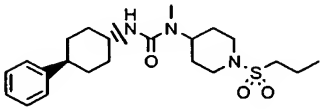


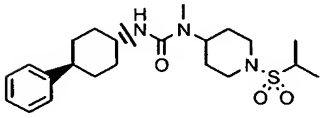


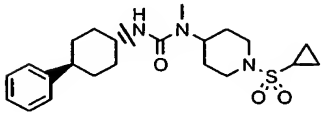


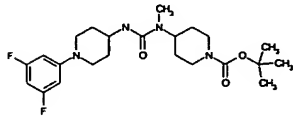


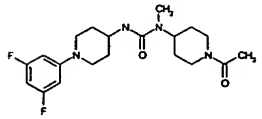


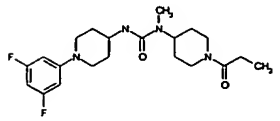


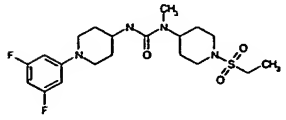


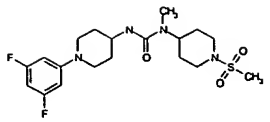


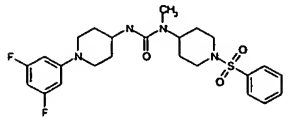


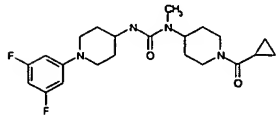


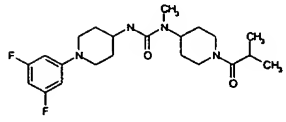


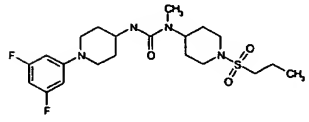


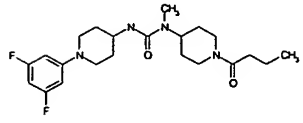


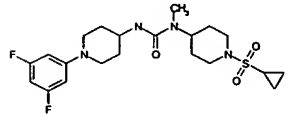


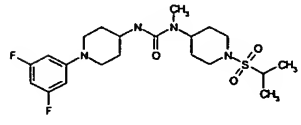


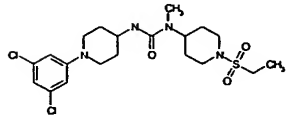


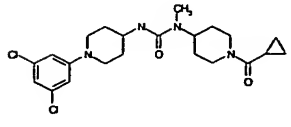


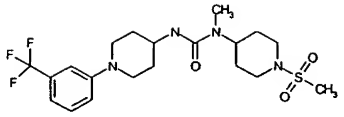


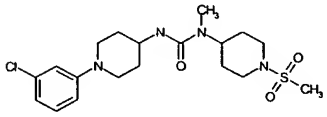


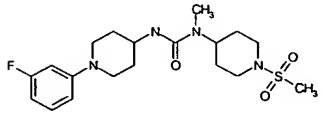


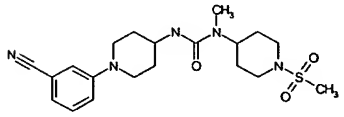


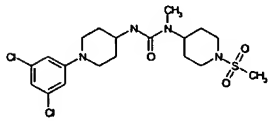


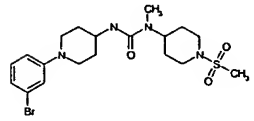


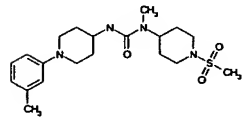


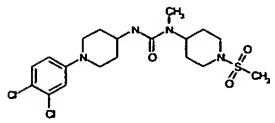


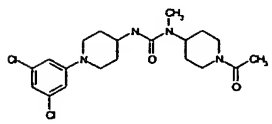


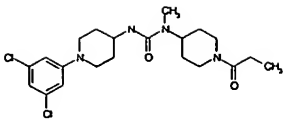


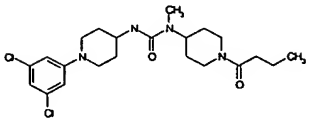


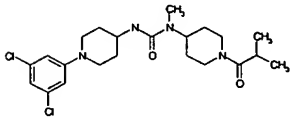


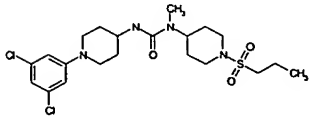


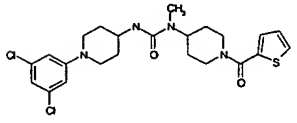


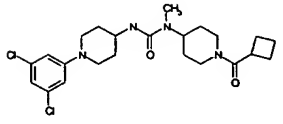


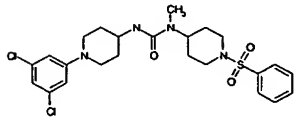


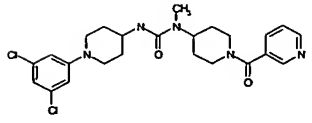


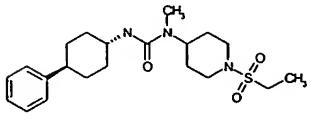


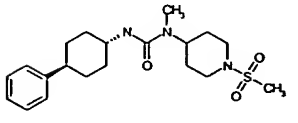


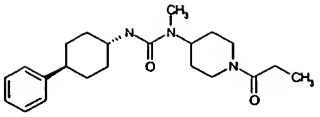


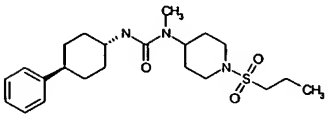


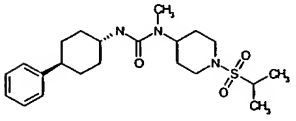


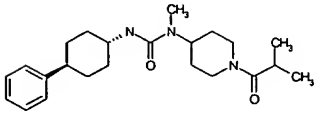


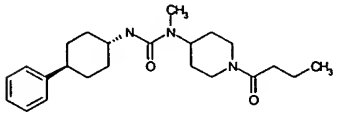


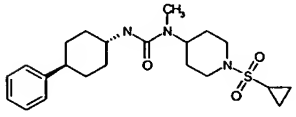


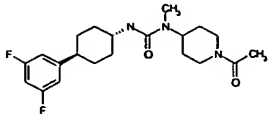


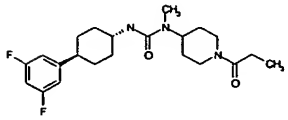


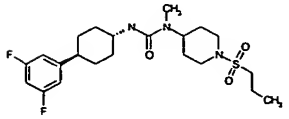


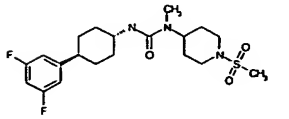


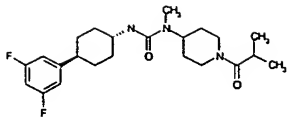


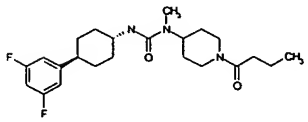


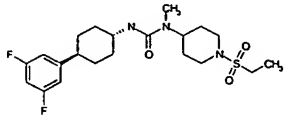


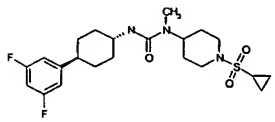


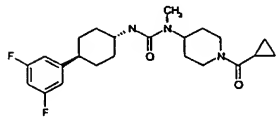


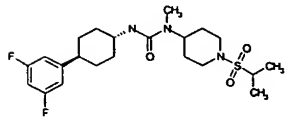


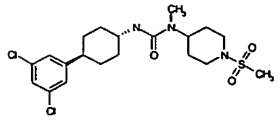


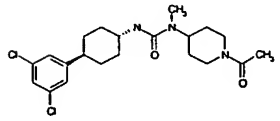


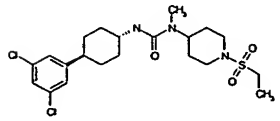


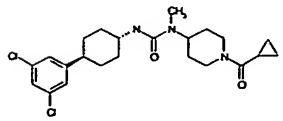


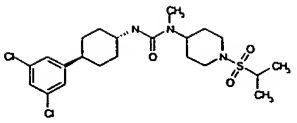


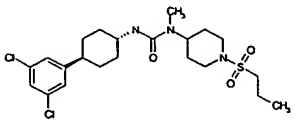


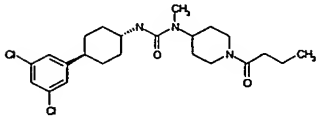


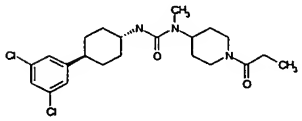


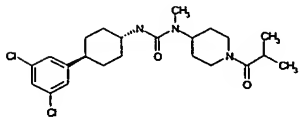


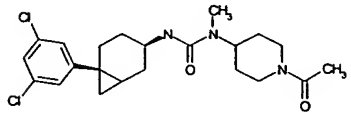


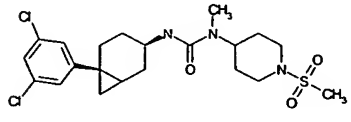


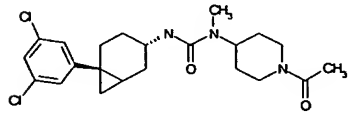


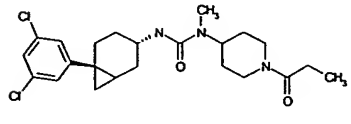


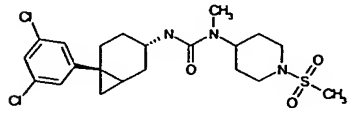


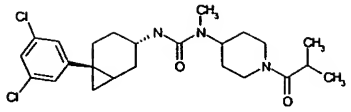


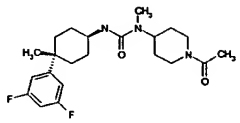


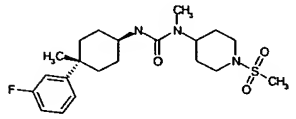


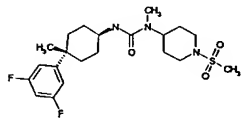


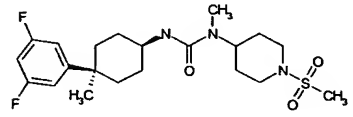


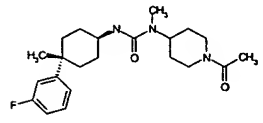


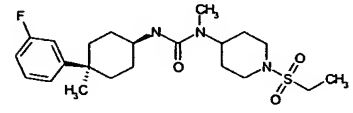


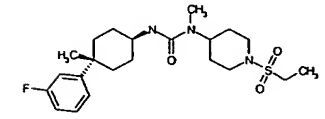


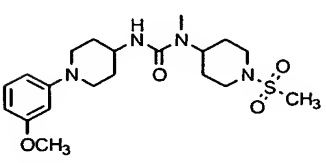


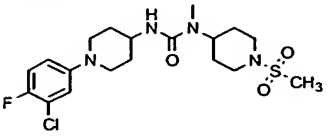


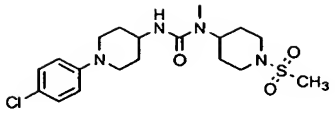


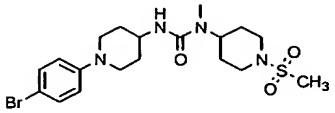


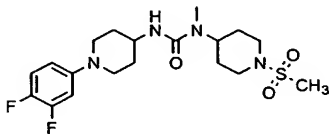


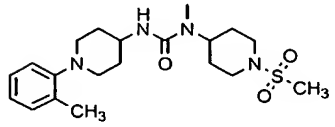


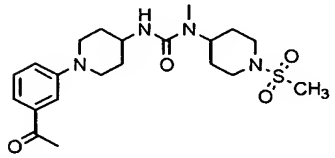


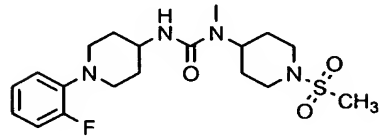


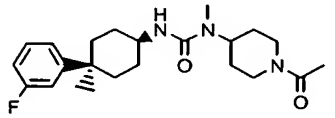


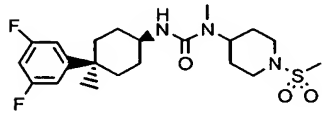


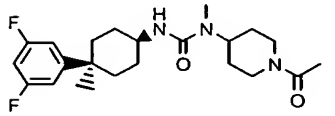


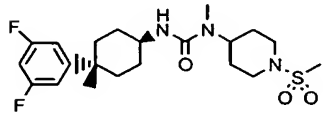












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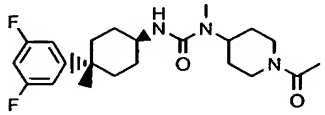
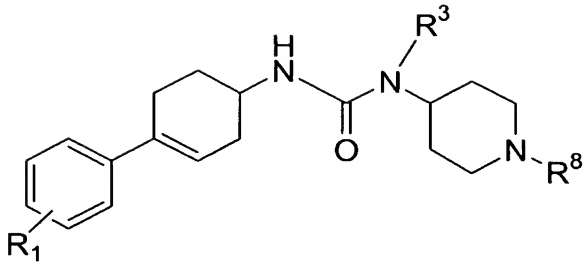


or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of said compound.

6. A compound represented by the structural formula



III

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate thereof, wherein

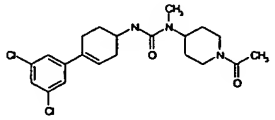
R^1 is 1 to 5 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^1 being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, haloalkyl, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, CN, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, alkylthio, cycloalkylthio, $-NR^5R^6$, $-NO_2$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NR^5COR^6$, $-NR^5CONR^5R^6$ where the two R^5 moieties can be the same or different, $-NR^6C(O)OR^7$, $-C(O)OR^6$, $-SOR^7$, $-SO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, aryl and heteroaryl;

R^3 is independently hydrogen or –alkyl;

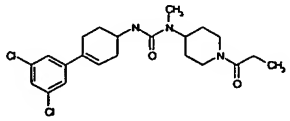
and

R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^{11}$, $-C(O)R^{11}$, $-C(O)NR^5R^{11}$ and $-C(O)OR^{10}$.

7. A compound of claim 6 selected from the group consisting of

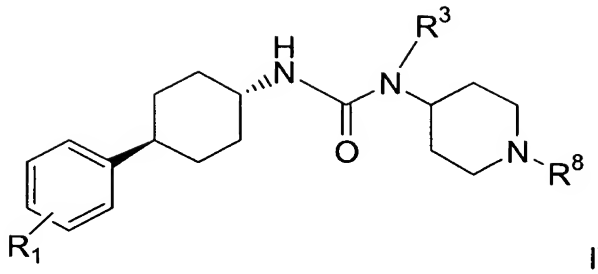


and



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate of said compound.

8. A compound represented by the structural formula



IV

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or solvate there of, wherein

R^1 is 1 to 5 substituents which can be the same or different, each R^1 being independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, hydroxy, halogen, haloalkyl, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, CN, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, alkylthio, cycloalkylthio, $-NR^5R^6$, $-NO_2$, $-CONR^5R^6$, $-NR^5COR^6$, $-NR^5CONR^5R^6$ where the two R^5 moieties can be the same or different, $-NR^6C(O)OR^7$, $-C(O)OR^6$, $-SOR^7$, $-SO_2R^7$, $-SO_2NR^5R^6$, aryl and heteroaryl;

R^3 is independently hydrogen or –alkyl;

and

R^8 is independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, -alkyl, substituted –alkyl, -cycloalkyl, -alkylcycloalkyl, aryl, heteroaryl, aralkyl, heteroaralkyl, $-SO_2R^{10}$, $-SO_2NR^5R^{11}$, $-C(O)R^{11}$, $-C(O)NR^5R^{11}$ and $-C(O)OR^{10}$.

9. A pharmaceutical composition comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 in combination with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. A method of treating a metabolic disorder, eating disorder or diabetes comprising administering an effective amount of a compound of claim 1 to a mammal in need of such treatment.

11. A pharmaceutical composition, which comprises an effective amount of a compound as, defined in claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof.

12. A method of treating metabolic or eating disorders comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

13. The method of claim 10 wherein said metabolic disorder is obesity.

14. The method of claim 10 wherein said eating disorder is hyperphagia.

15. A method of treating disorders associated with obesity comprising administering to a mammal in need of such treatment a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound.

16. The method of claim 15 wherein said disorders associated with obesity are Type II Diabetes, insulin resistance, hyperlipidemia and hypertension.

17. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising:

a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound;

a second compound, said second compound being an anti-obesity and/or anorectic agent such as a β_3 agonist, a thryomimetic agent, an anorectic agent or an NPY antagonist; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier thereof.

18. A method of treating a metabolic or eating disorder which comprises administering to a mammal in need of such treatment

an amount of a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound;

a second compound, said second compound being an antiobesity and/or anorectic agent such as a β_3 agonist, a thryomimetic agent, an anorectic agent or an NPY antagonist;

wherein the amounts of the first and second compounds result in a therapeutic effect.

19. A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a therapeutically effective amount of a composition comprising:

a first compound, said first compound being a compound of claim 1 or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt of said compound;

a second compound, said second compound being an aldose reductase inhibitor, a glycogen phosphorylase inhibitor, a sorbitol dehydrogenase inhibitor, a protein tyrosine phosphatase 1B inhibitor, a dipeptidyl protease inhibitor, insulin (including orally bioavailable insulin preparations), an insulin mimetic, metformin, acarbose, a PPAR-gamma ligand such as troglitazone, rosaglitazone, pioglitazone, or GW-1929, a sulfonylurea, glipazide, glyburide, or chlorpropamide; and

a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

20. A pharmaceutical composition made by combining the compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier therefor.

21. A process for making a pharmaceutical composition comprising combining a compound of claim 1 and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.